

Mustang Minutes



Here are important dates for the month of October 2023:

Monday, October 9, 2023	In - Person Parent - Teacher Conferences(School Closed for Students)
Friday, October 20, 2023	Professional Development for Teachers (School Closed for Students)

Welcome Back Mighty Mustangs

Happy October 2023,

Welcome to the 2023 - 2024 school year! Your child has been attending school for one month already. Concord Elementary School is committed to providing your child with a high-quality education. Our mission is to work collaboratively as a caring community to provide every opportunity for students to achieve at high levels. Our school hours are from 8:15 AM – 2:25 PM. Our school doors open at 7:45 AM. Breakfast is available for students between 7:45 - 8:15 AM. All students need to be seated in their classrooms by 8:15 am daily. Please ensure that your child attends school daily and arrives on time. Attendance is the law. If your child is absent from school, please submit an absent note to your child's teacher(s). In addition, we are encouraging students to wear their masks to school (rise in COVID) and asking parents to pack masks in their book bags.

Parents Visiting the Building

Your active participation with the school is encouraged and appreciated. You can help us by making sure your child is present daily and on time, rested, and ready to begin each day with a positive attitude. Parents will be allowed to visit the school by appointment only. Appointments must be scheduled 24 hours in advance. Homework is assigned to students Monday - Thursday. Students are also required to read at least 20 - 30 minutes a night and study their Math facts at least 15 minutes a night. Students should record this information on their Reading and Math logs. Parents, please sign both logs!

On Tuesday, October 31, 2023, we will celebrate Halloween in the afternoon (after lunch). Students will be allowed to dress in positive costumes ONLY! Classrooms will have parties, however ONLY store purchased items will be allowed (cookies, cupcakes, juice boxes, pizza, etc.).

Our school newsletter will be available monthly on our school's website along with all information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (301) 817-0488 and/or at Dana.Doggett@pgcps.org and Tracie.Connelly@pgcps.org.

Primary News

Pre-K

Unit 1 - Connecting with School and Friends
Unit 2 – Our Environment

Unit 1 is building the most important school connections; among the children and peers, teachers and the school. Children learn classroom routines, transitions, social-emotional skills, learn concepts and practice activities for Math, English Language Arts/ Reading, enjoy fine motor and large-motor skills, have fun in Specials and at the playground while having fun with their new friends. The students have the opportunities to engage in different unit-based lessons and small/independent practice activities everyday.

Second grade is a blast so far! We are learning about how we can be good citizens in our community. In reading, we are thinking about how being a good citizen can make a difference to others as we closely read fiction and nonfiction texts. We have been working on Inflectional endings, long vowels, and suffix -er and -est. We will continue to work on blending l, r, and s and closed syllables. In Math, we will continue working on grouping objects, measuring length, and adding within 100.

Kindergarten

Welcome to an exciting year in kindergarten! We welcome our new friends as well as our friends from the Pre-K classes. In class, we review rules and expectations daily. Frequent reminders and constant modeling assist the scholars in remembering desired behaviors. Please be sure to remind your scholar of school wide and classroom rules. Be sure to discuss the importance of wearing a mask in school. Please make sure to pack extra masks in your child's book bag. Also, be sure to label all of your child's belongings. Be sure to label jackets, sweaters and coats. If you have any questions, please be sure to reach out to us.
Ms. Taylor's email:
Lisa.Taylor@pgcps.org

First Grade Rocks!

Let's all work hard so as to achieve our goal this school year. Reading and Math logs are sent home on Monday's to be turned in on Friday's. This is to encourage our students to read for 20 minutes and to practice their math facts on addition and sub-traction. In Reading, we focus on phonological awareness, isolating phonemes and blending sounds to become better at decoding words as well as learning the high-frequency words. They are also writing informative sentences about a topic. In Math, they study the attributes of 2-dimensional shapes. They will continue to learn the different addition strategies such as counting on, thinking about doubles or making a ten in solving math situations. In Science, they will learn the phases of the moon and they will observe the amount of daylight to the time of year.

At least 20 minutes, each and every night. Reading logs will be sent home every Monday with the homework packet. All Homework packs and logs are due on the Friday of each week. Please ensure you are sending your student to school with their fully charged Chromebook and charger each day!

Intermediate News

Third Grade

In Reading, students will practice making predictions while reading, identifying literary elements, and comparing and contrasting in Module 2- Use your own words. They will also begin handwriting practice, learning their signatures, finding context clues, and writing essays. In Social Studies, third-grade students will explore the theme Civics – Our Roles and Responsibilities. Students will learn about citizenship and what makes a successful community. In Math, our third graders will continue to master addition and subtraction, time, and multiplication. In Science, students will also learn about force and its interactions. In Health, students will learn about safety at home and away from home.

4th Grade

Students are currently working on W4.4 writing narratives or biographies. In Social Studies, students are learning about What Makes a Community? Students are readily exploring the three forms of government that guide decision-making in our community.

In Math the unit begins with a review of the base-10 place-value system to the thousands. Students are introduced to rounding and use rounding throughout the unit as an estimation strategy, to nomenon and purpose of the investigation. In Health students will explore safety rules, emergency planning, unsafe/risky situations, and refusal skills.

5th Grade

In Mathematics, students will continue to learn how to divide numbers. They will be dividing up to 4-digit dividends by 2-digit divisors using strategies based on place -value and the relationship between multiplication and division. It is very important that our scholars know the basic multiplication facts. This month, the decimal system will also be introduced. Our scholars will learn more about Matter, including Changes to matter. They will utilize materials to observe, predict, measure, analyze, and the like.

Reading

Fifth grade scholars are working on Module 8. In this module, students will be reading poems and stories about what it is like to move to a new home. Essential Question: How do people adapt to new experiences and make a new place home? They will be gathering information to help them answer the Essential Question.

Students are also building a Literacy Community in our Classroom by using Accountable Talk, Inner Conversation, See Think and Wonder, Visualize, Collaborative Conversation, and Think Pair Share Strategies

Writing:

Students are learning to work on the strategy RACE by restating the question in their answer and gathering textual evidence.

Social Studies:

Students are working on 5RI 5.2 The Main Idea (The most important idea about a topic?. Details(Support the main idea) We are learning to Read Maps.



News from our Specialists

Special Education Department

PARENTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

By Sonia D. Bobis

Parents of children with disabilities often require a greater degree of parental involvement and advocacy than the parents of children without disabilities to be assured of receiving the same level of instruction as the general education students. Children with disabilities are faced with multifaceted challenges requiring special attention from the teachers and active engagement from their families. Parents must communicate frequently with the teachers. They can play supporting roles as advocates and as persons who can share valuable insights about their children.

PE

Students will learn movement concepts such as speed, direction, and force throughout the first two weeks of October. In the last two weeks, they will be tested on their fitness knowledge. This will help your child understand the importance of a daily fitness routine and overall body movement to remain healthy and strong.

Parents, please be aware that during PE days, your child should wear the proper clothes and shoes to move around comfortably. Also, please keep in mind that we are still going outdoors during most classes, and we will make adjustments accordingly as the weather changes.

Media

Live conversations with African Poets & Writers Thursday, October 12, 2023 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Native American Arts Friday, October 13, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Library of Congress

Great October Book Ideas

October 12th – Cookbook Launch Day – Showcase a display full of cookbooks and recipes.
October 16th – Dictionary Day
October 28th – Astronomy Day – Anything related to the Earth, moon, and stars fit here.
October 31st – Magic Day – Got any books on magic? It's their time to shine.

Updates from the Technology Corner

Students have been issued replacement Chromebooks this year after parents have filled out the technology support request form located on our school website. If your student had a device at another PGCPs school, they can use that device here. If it was turned into the former school, please contact the school to make sure the device was unassigned to your student so that I may reassign a device. It is imperative that all students have their school issued Chromebook every day because instruction and as a tool for online intervention in the areas of reading and math. Furthermore, some testing is done on the Chromebooks, which hinders students who do not report to school with their fully charged devices.

Students should be using the following apps in the evening, located in Clever
(1) iReady - 3x per week for 20 minutes a night at home
(2) Dreambox- 3x per week for 20 minutes a night at home
Together, we can work to improve student performance in the areas of math and reading.

